

REGARDING THE SERVICE OF THE
MONTFORD POINT MARINES**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Representative LANE EVANS as an original cosponsor, with the Congressional Black Caucus, of this Resolution honoring the Montford Point Marines.

In 1942, President Roosevelt established a presidential directive giving African Americans an opportunity to be recruited into the Marine Corps. These African Americans, from all states, were not sent to the traditional boot camps of Parris Island, South Carolina and San Diego, California. Instead, African-American Marines were segregated—experiencing basic training at Montford Point—a facility at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Approximately 20,000 African-American Marines received basic training at Montford Point between 1942 and 1949.

The initial intent was to discharge these African-American Marines after the war, returning them to civilian life. Attitudes changed as the war progressed. Once given the chance to prove themselves, it became impossible to deny the fact that African-American Marines were just as capable as all other Marines regardless of race, color, creed or national origin.

In July of 1948 President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order #9981 negating segregation. In September 1949, Montford Marine Camp was deactivated—ending seven years of segregation.

I am joining Congressman EVANS in offering this resolution to recognize their service and sacrifice and to acknowledge today's United States Marine Corps as an excellent opportunity for advancement of persons of all races due to the service and example of the original Montford Point Marines.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on February 16, 2005 due to the funeral of a close friend. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 35.

REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds

for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to say that I will be voting against H.R. 418. We have made significant progress in implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, and I support additional reforms that make real progress in addressing problems plaguing our immigration system. However, H.R. 418 does not go far enough in improving this immigration system in ways that will enhance our national security.

Instead of comprehensively reforming our immigration system, this proposal seeks to overturn key provisions adopted in the Intelligence Reform bill last year requiring strict new standards for driver's licenses. The Department of Homeland Security is already collaborating with states to devise sensible standards that work. This bill rolls back this approach in favor of Congressionally-mandated rules which did not have the benefit of committee hearings.

Additionally, this bill creates additional, next-to-impossible hurdles for legitimate asylum seekers. Many of these asylum-seekers have been the victims of terrorism themselves and have fled to this country seeking freedom and democracy. About a month ago, I learned the heart-breaking story an Iraqi informant who saved North Dakota lives and lost his own in advancing the cause of freedom and democracy in Iraq. Though his family escaped with their lives, the continued risk to these friends of America now prompts our urgent attention. I fear that passage of this legislation today would mean that we would not be able to allow this family, who sacrificed so much, to enter the United States and remain here while their lives are threatened.

Mr. Chairman, I will vote against H.R. 418, and I encourage my colleagues to seek real reform that addresses the problems in our broken immigration system.

REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition of H.R. 418, the REAL ID Act. This bill adds unnecessary burdens to the asylum process and unfunded mandates on state governments.

My home state of Minnesota has an ever-increasing population of new Americans. As is true across the country, thousands of my constituents fled religious discrimination, abuse, torture and religious persecution abroad. The United States is a beacon of hope for those around the world seeking safety, freedom and equality. It is vital that we remain that way.

The asylum provisions in H.R. 418 impose an undue burden on those immigrants fleeing persecution, torture, and other human rights abuses around the world. The bill would require the asylum seeker to show documentation of their torture. This would reverse years of precedent that allow a credible testimony to be proof of their case. It is outrageous to think that the human rights abusers abroad will provide proof of their crime to ensure an asylum-seeker can prove their case to immigration officials in the United States.

This bill will also place an unnecessary, unfunded mandate on states, most of whom are already facing budget challenges due to cuts in federal funding. Driver's license laws are the responsibility of state governments. Minnesota is on the forefront of developing secure identification for its citizens. Not more than 2 months ago, my state unveiled a new driver's license that is among the most secure licenses in the country. However, even with Minnesota's innovation, this bill would require a monumental effort on the part of the state to comply with the law, which is an unfunded mandate that ties the hands of state government.

I will continue to uphold my oath of office to preserve and protect our Constitution and the safety of our nation. No one wants terrorists to enter the United States, but this bill is not the answer to that problem. We must streamline and strengthen our immigration process, but we cannot do so at the expense of the abused, the tortured, and the persecuted.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF LOU AND
GEORGIA POULOS**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of two dear friends, Lou and Georgia Poulos of Phoenix, Arizona. On Jan. 30, 2005, the couple was joined by 150 friends and family members to toast their half-century milestone of matrimony.

Lou Poulos first met Georgia Hotis in the late 1940's during a church outing for teenagers at the Gold Spot bowling alley in Phoenix. During the following years, their relationship blossomed and their courtship began when the couple was in their twenties. Although it was initially Georgia's beauty and Lou's sense of humor that sparked the mutual attraction, the couple's shared values as first generation Greek-Americans and members of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, paved the way for their lasting connection.

Seven years later, the sweethearts were married in the Greek Orthodox Church on January 30, 1955. The couple held their wedding reception at the Westward Ho Hotel, an historic hotel in Phoenix located across the street from the bowling alley where they first met. In 1960, the newlyweds built a home in Phoenix where they reared their three children, Deanne, Jim, and Alex, and where they still reside today, nearly forty-five years later. The Poulos family has now proudly expanded to include Jim's wife, Tracy, Alex's wife, Shelli, and Alex and Shelli's five-year-old triplets, Sela, Ari and Alex.

As Lou continued to build his liquor store chain, Georgia managed the household, juggling her children's dance classes, piano lessons, Little League baseball, and Pop Warner football. As their son Jim fondly recalled, Lou and Georgia made many sacrifices to ensure the best education and opportunities for their children.

Despite their busy family lives, Lou and Georgia have remained active in the community throughout their years together. For 47 years, Lou served as the secretary/treasurer for the Arizona License and Beverage Association, and since his retirement, he continues to serve as an officer for the state licensed beverage lobbying organization. Georgia worked as a director for two nonprofit organizations. Over the years, the couple has also served on their parish council, the Men's Club, and Women's Guild at Brophy College Preparatory school, as well as participating in and donating to many charitable fundraisers.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring and celebrating 50 years of marriage between Lou and Georgia Poulos, a union built on a devotion to each other and unconditional love for family. I have had the privilege of knowing this loving couple for decades, and have witnessed the strong sense of family values, self-sacrifice, and commitment to community that defined their lives together. As a longtime friend, it is with great joy that I extend my congratulations to Lou and Georgia Poulos and their beloved family, and I wish them many more years of wedded happiness.

CHINA'S PROPOSED ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong concern over China's proposed anti-secession law that it plans to include in its March 2005 agenda of the National People's Congress.

This anti-secession law is highly provocative, and needlessly moves cross-strait relations away from dialogue and possibly towards open confrontation. I am particularly concerned about the law's assumption that China and Taiwan are now unified and how the law sets up a legal framework for retaliation if Taiwan declares independence. Under this proposed law, China could claim the legal right to push for unification of Taiwan by force, which is the worst possible scenario.

The 23 million people of Taiwan are understandably very upset over this proposed law. As we all know, the people of Taiwan live in a full-fledged democracy and enjoy the highest standards of freedom and human rights. We remember a similar reaction and back-lash by the citizens of Hong Kong when they learned about the enactment of the Article 23 anti-secession laws. While claiming the theory of "one country, two systems," it appears that Beijing's implementation of its theory may result in the blocking of democratic reforms and the undermining of autonomous self-governance.

Certainly any country has the right to enact their own domestic laws, but I do not feel that any country should use their domestic laws as justification to suppress or intimidate democ-

racy abroad. While the President spoke very eloquently of promoting democracy and liberty abroad in his Inaugural Address, we must remember that our country still has a solemn duty to defend democracy and liberty.

I hope the Chinese leaders will be wise to not adopt this anti-secession law in March. I also urge the international community to join us to voice their disapproval of this provocative law. Inaction by the world will likely send a wrong signal to Beijing.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF GRANTS PASS ROTARY AND THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary commitment to service, community, and humanitarianism displayed by the members of Rotary International as the organization celebrates its 100th anniversary this month.

One hundred years ago, a lawyer in Chicago, Illinois, embarked on an effort to create a professional club that captured the same friendly spirit he felt in the small towns of his youth; a club that would make service a priority, generosity a regular occurrence, and hard work a way of life. This idea was welcomed throughout the United States with clubs sprouting coast to coast within the first decade, and throughout the rest of the world with clubs forming on six continents by 1921.

Today, Rotary International is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders—individuals committed to humanitarianism, high ethical standards, and civic involvement.

I have been a proud member of Rotary since October 1987, and while my work here in Washington, D.C. keeps me from attending all the meetings of my Hood River, Oregon club, I make every attempt to go when I am home. And as I commute home to Oregon each week from our Nation's capital, I am able to attend many meetings at clubs in the twenty counties throughout my sprawling district.

There are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians in over 31,000 clubs located in 166 countries. And in the United States, there are nearly 400,000 Rotarians in more than 7,500 clubs.

The Grants Pass Rotary, located in Oregon's beautiful Rogue Valley, is one such club. Founded in 1924, Grants Pass Rotary has celebrated over 80 years of dedication and service to the local community as well as the world abroad. Under the recent leadership of Georgette Brown, and her predecessors before her, the club has done a great deal for the area.

Throughout the years, Grants Pass Rotarians have conducted projects with their dedication, time, energy, and resources. These projects have covered a variety of areas: recognition of students in middle and elementary school excelling in their academic endeavors; the initial funding and continued support of The Riverside West All Sports Park, a fabulous facility for all Grants Pass citizens and visitors to enjoy; the development of Morrison

Centennial Park; the Grants Pass Rotary Invitational Track Meet held at Grants Pass High School, an event for students throughout the state and northern California; and events for foreign exchange students visiting America.

Internationally, the commitment of Rotarians is as strong. With humanitarian and educational programs for communities in all parts of the globe, Rotary Clubs have made a difference in everything from disaster relief to the advancement of democracy. A major focus of Rotary International is the global eradication of polio, a goal that the organization hopes to meet this year. In 1985 they launched the PolioPlus program to protect children against the disease. Rotary, along with groups such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and various governments throughout the world, has achieved a 99 percent reduction in the number of polio cases worldwide.

Their work and generosity has benefited youth, seniors, the impoverished, the disabled, the disheartened, and those devastated by disease, tragedy and natural disaster. I am proud to be a Rotarian and proud of the work that Rotary clubs throughout my district do on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to share with my colleagues the generosity and spirit of service that is exemplified by the members of Grants Pass Rotary. May those of us in the Congress pay special attention to the motto of this organization and conduct ourselves here in a manner of "Service Before Self."

THE ATROCITIES IN DARFUR

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the heinous acts in Darfur. To date, almost two and a half million people in Darfur and Chad have been affected by the atrocities and as many as 300,000 individuals have been killed.

I commend the efforts already made to assist the people of Darfur. Millions in aid have been donated worldwide, including \$550 million from the United States. Peacekeeping efforts are underway from the African Union, the United Nations, and other organizations. I applaud the Sudanese for their commendable efforts to end the violence by signing the Peace Agreement in January. Unfortunately it is not enough.

Although the humanitarian aid and the peace agreement are steps in the right direction, it has not prevented people from being killed, raped, torn from their homes and left to starve. People are already fighting over water due to drought and a food shortage is imminent.

The international community must take stronger action. I call upon the United Nations Security Council to pass a meaningful resolution in the coming weeks, a resolution that will be consequential in the lives of the people of Darfur. The UN has already described the situation in Darfur as "the worst humanitarian and human rights situation in the world." It is time they treat the situation as such.